John Watkins





John Watkins, son of Thomas John Edward Watkins and Sarah Jordon. Born April 13, 1834, at Maidstone, Kent,

Married Margaret Ackhurst May 4, 1851, England. Endowed March 21, 1863.

Married Harriet Steele 1858 Salt Lake. Endowed March 21, 1863.

Married Mary Ann Sawyer March 21. 1863. Salt Lake Endowment House. Died December 23, 1902, Midway.

Margaret Ackhurst, daughter of Edward Ackhurst and Elizabeth Wildish.

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Mary Ann Sawyer Watkins, daughter of Joseph Sawyer and Henrietta Tranham. Born August 17, 1848, at Swansea, Wales.

Married John Watkins March 21, 1863, Endowment House.

Died April 22, 1918, Salt Lake City, Utah. John Watkins had seven brothers and one sister.

The Watkins were a family of means and property. Architecture and building was a profession handed down from a long line of ancestors. It was natural that John should be trained in his father's profession as an architect and builder. He had a very fine voice and had musical training. He was a soloist in the cathedral. The family belonged to the Church of England.

John married at the early age of 17 to Margaret Ackhurst of Faversham. They moved to London where he readily found work at his trade. There he met the Elders of the LDS Church and was converted to Mormonism. He and his wife Margaret were baptized in 1852 by Elder William Eastrone and confirmed by George Denise in the Finsbury Chapel, London, England. His mother, a faithful member of the Church of England, became very bitter towards John when she found he had joined the Latterday Saint Church. His father died and he was left to settle the estate as well as take care of his own financial affairs before he could leave England. He made great sacrifices in order to dispose of his property that he might emigrate to America. Finally, he and his wife Margaret and their two children sailed from Liverpool on the sail ship "Horizon" May 26, 1856, with 856 passengers all of the Mormon faith bound for Boston.

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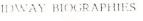
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George Wardle was one of the first men to look down into the valley of the Great Salt Lake in July, 1847, after a memorable trek across the plains. He was baptized a member of the Church in England by Elder George A. Smith. In 1842 he sailed for America to join with the body of the Shatch in Nauvoo, Illinois, bringing with him his im. A few years later he was called to America to join with the body of the Church

wright having learned how to do this work in his father's shop in England. His services were in great demand and he was busily engaged in repairing wagons when anti-Mormon mobs drove the Saints from that city. At Winter Quarters he was selected to go with the pioneer group.

Arriving in the valley he performed whatever labors were asked of him until the time of his return to get his wife. He had been an ardent student of music in England, and Brigham Young, learning of his talents along that line, asked him on his arrival in the valley the second time, to teach a class in dancing. He started his dancing school in Marcy Thompson's log house while a hall was being built. Among his students were President Brigham Young, George Q. Cannon, George A. Smith and other leading brethren of the Church. He also helped to organize the first choir and the first brass band in Salt Lake City.

When land was allotted to the Saints as their inheritance in Zion, he was given a piece of ground in Sugar House Ward. The dancing school, choir and band were reaching a stage of perfection when President Young colled him to go to Provo and start a dancin school in that vicinity. He moved his fami, built a house and had hardly gotten him if established when he was called to Mid y to assist in the same profession. True to very call made by the Church authoritic he again moved his family, and while siding there was instrumental in having small rock meetinghouse erected with stage in one end which could be useer social events as well as meetings. Jain the call came to go to Glenwood ier county. This time he built a large al house as his family now consisted fee wives and a number of small chil-He, and his sons, also erected a small smith shop and it is said that they were rst men in that part of the country to the Indians' ponies. For this work they paid in venison, both fresh and dried, metimes a pony.

Wardle was prospering, when once a request came from President Taylor, had been sustained as president of the ch after the death of Brigham Young, turn to Midway, as the settlers were ng difficulties with the project begun in Nauvoo, Illinois, bringing with that the view years later he was called to wife of two weeks, Fannie Rushton. He o Vernal, Uintah County, and again wife of two weeks, Fannie Rusmon.

immediately engaged in his trade of wheel
ge, although advanced in years, or-

MIDWAY BAPHIES

ganized a sche dancing and vocal les sons. On No. 25, 1901, this talented musician passe wat his home in Vernal, survived by a

Children by Arriage to Fannie Rushton: Edwin, who wed Louisa Thompson: Heber George, Arried Amanda Fausett: Fannie Lud who married John Morton: Jedediah married Elizabeth Abplanalp; Lucy Who married John Bell: Lielie, who dievouth.

Children of Georg Lucy were: Alice and Ada, who died they; Alfonzo, who married Lottie Wait

Children by his me to Caroline Fisher: Eliza, who mar Villiam Tucker; a baby who died at bora, who married William Stone; Edilo married Robert Hair, later William Etta, who married Francis Ross: Hatho married Allie Pickup.